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CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1 - 26 cancelled

27. (currently amended) A device for producing blanks from a product web, the device comprising:

rotary cutting means;

means, disposed downstream of said rotary cutting means, for sorting and stacking the blanks, said sorting and stacking means comprising a delivery nest defining steps onto which the blanks are disposed at differing vertical and horizontal positions, wherein adjacent steps have a mutual vertical separation which is sufficiently large as to permit horizontal displacement of at least one blank from a higher lying step onto at least one blank disposed on an adjacent lower lying step;

means, disposed between said cutting means and said sorting and stacking means, for determining faulty blanks and for directly removing said faulty blanks prior to delivery to said sorting and stacking means; and

waste means accepting the faulty blanks from said determining and removing means.

28. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein a transfer system or a suction belt means is disposed downstream of said rotary cutting means.
29. (previously presented) The device of claim 28, wherein the blanks are separated from a waste strip or a waste grid at said suction belt means.

30. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein waste is directly separated from the blanks immediately downstream of said cutting means for removal over a surface of a cutting cylinder.
31. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein a waste grid is guided over a surface of a counter pressure cylinder, downwards into a suction funnel, thereby separating waste from the blanks.
32. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein said waste means comprise a chopper disposed downstream of said cutting means.
33. (previously presented) The device of claim 28, wherein an arbitrary number of blanks is disposed on said suction belt means, said determining and removing means comprising an optical test device disposed above said suction belt means for detecting printing faults or missing blanks.
34. (previously presented) The device of claim 28, further comprising a suction cup belt disposed downstream of said cutting means for receiving the blanks from said suction belt means.
35. (previously presented) The device of claim 34, wherein said suction cup belt comprises individual suction cups.
36. (previously presented) The device of claim 35, wherein said suction cups on said suction cup belt have same mutual separations as the blanks along the product web.

37. (previously presented) The device of claim 35, wherein said suction cups on said suction cup belt have different mutual separations than the blanks along the product web.

38. (previously presented) The device of claim 35, wherein said suction cups are disposed on said suction cup belt at variable separations.

39. (previously presented) The device of claim 35, wherein said sorting and stacking means comprises at least one stacking means disposed downstream of said suction belt means.

40. (previously presented) The device of claim 39, wherein said stacking means has a vacuum wheel, vacuum belts, and/or a delivery wheel.

41. (previously presented) The device of claim 40, wherein said delivery wheel is a vacuum drum or a delivery star.

42. (previously presented) The device of claim 40, wherein at least two delivery wheels are disposed next to each other on an axis, each delivery wheel having a different diameter.

43. cancelled.

44. (currently amended) The device of ~~claim 43~~claim 40, wherein individual nest layers are pushed on top of each other to form a sorted stack by displacing said delivery ~~nests~~nest against a lateral stop.

45. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein the product web is printed in a predetermined transverse and longitudinal order.

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46. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein a pushing device pushes a sorted stack onto a transport belt.
47. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein faulty blanks are transferred to a suctioning means at a suction cup wheel.
48. (previously presented) The device of claim 39, wherein, in dependence on a control of said suction cups, different blank rows are received and supplied in rows to one of said stacking means where the blanks are disposed and mixed a defined manner.
49. (previously presented) The device of claim 48, further comprising means for directly controlling each individual suction cup to permit distribution and mixing of individual blanks, received in rows, onto several stacking means.
50. (previously presented) The device of claim 48, wherein a plurality of stacking means are consecutively disposed.
51. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, further comprising a print mark control, wherein said rotary cutting means cut out the blanks in exact register with the product web.
52. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein the device is individually used as an offline machine or as an inline machine directly connected to other machines.